



THE FARMERS TALK TO FARMERS

THE SEVEN GREAT AGRICULTURAL COUNTIES OF AMERICA

(Written Specially for The Bulletin.)
Two of the three recent publications of the government have interested me much, and I wonder if they might not be of some use to you. I am going to pass them on to such of you as may not already have seen them.

The first is a sheet of statistics from the census bureau, showing the eight largest crop-producing counties in the country. Of these eight, the first is the extreme west—Los Angeles county, California, which had in the year reported on a total agricultural production of \$14,200,000 in fruits, vegetables, hay, livestock and dairy products. The lowest of the eight is in the extreme east—Ansonia county, Maine, with a total production of \$10,150,000 in potatoes and vegetables. The other six come in the following order, beginning with No. 2:

Lancaster, Penn.	\$13,650,000
McLean, Ill.	12,811,500
Whitman, Wash.	12,547,700
Livingston, Ill.	11,371,700
Iroquois, Ill.	10,867,800
La Salle, Ill.	10,232,300

In all of these six counties grains are the principal production, though dairy products take a high place in Lancaster county, Penn. The census figures also show the income per acre in these eight best farming counties of the United States. They are as follows:

Los Angeles, Cal.	\$35
Lancaster, Penn.	28
Aroostook, Maine	23
McLean and Livingston, Ill.	18
La Salle, Ill.	17
Iroquois, Ill.	16
Whitman, Wash.	14

Still more interesting to me are the statistics of the production per capita in these eight banner counties. They strikingly reverse the order of acreage production. The value of farm crops produced to each individual in these counties is shown in the next table:

Whitman, Wash.	\$277
Iroquois, Ill.	228
Livingston, Ill.	221
McLean, Ill.	188
Aroostook, Maine	128
La Salle, Ill.	123
Lancaster, Penn.	73
Los Angeles, Cal.	28

It seems a bit curious, at first glance, that Los Angeles, Cal., and Lancaster, Penn., should head the list in production per acre, with Iroquois, Ill., and Whitman, Wash., trailing it with the lowest production per acre, while Whitman and Iroquois lead in production per capita and Lancaster and Los Angeles drag at the lowest end of the scale in per capita production. Naturally, one would think that a county which got the biggest crops per acre, would be likely to give the biggest results per individual. A glance at the census figures of population, however, shows forth the explanation. Los Angeles, for instance, is the most populous county in all California, with over half a million inhabitants;

most of them city residents and, therefore, not engaged in agricultural production. The one city of Los Angeles alone has 319,000 inhabitants. Whitman county, Wash., on the other hand, has but 32,000 inhabitants, is almost wholly given over to farming, hasn't a city in it with so many as 3,000 people. Similarly, Lancaster, Penn., has 167,000 inhabitants, with several cities running from 50,000 down; while Iroquois, Ill., has but 35,000 people, with nothing larger than a village in its boundaries.

It makes a big difference with the figures of production per head when you have to divide the total in one case among 500,000 people, nine-tenths of whom never touch a farm tool, or in another case, among only 32,000, nine-tenths of whom devote all their time to farm work.

While it is doubtless true that "figures don't lie," it is just as true that they've got to find out exactly what they say or you may deceive yourself.

Nor is there any reason why we of the east should feel any sense of disgrace because California county, Los Angeles, totals the highest gross production of the eight banner counties, while Aroostook, Maine, reports the lowest of the eight. In the first place, the principal crops of Los Angeles are oranges, lemons, and the like—rather high-priced fruits; while the main stay of the Aroostook farmers is in common, plebeian potatoes, which sometimes cost the consumer enough, but seldom bring the producer high prices. Again, while Los Angeles has over 500,000 inhabitants, Aroostook has but 32,000. Los Angeles has a climate which its residents brag about as the very finest in the world this year, while Aroostook sticks its head up to within shouting distance of bleak Labrador, and is unusually pleased if it gets as much as three consecutive months without a freeze-up. If the names on the map afford a fair criterion, Los Angeles is three-quarters of the way to the tropics; while Aroostook is three-quarters of the way to the north pole. That the eastern farmer should, in an area with so much waste land and under such unfavorable conditions of climate, pull the county up even to membership among the first eight is a notable achievement.

Of course, Illinois will put up a big brag because four of the nation's best eight counties are in its limits. Well, let it. Its four prize winners lie practically in a bunch, and the center of the famous "corn-belt," a broad stretch of rich, black-soiled garden land; a prairie with anywhere from fifty to five hundred feet of fertile dirt below it; so level that the map shows one railroad running seventy-named in a line as straight as a ruler. When the farmers of a bleak, cold, thin-soiled Maine county, most of

which is in swamps and lakes and forests, anyway, come within 750,000 of producing as valuable crops as La Salle, Illinois, every square acre of which is arable and which has a rich soil extending down half way to China, then those Maine farmers don't need to make any excuses.

Another line of statistics just issued refers to the production and use of fertilizers in the United States. We are not only importing increased quantities of such things as nitrates and potash salts from South America and Germany, we are producing immensely more than ever before such domestic fertilizers as we have the raw material for.

Did you imagine that the farmers of the country were using, for instance, about \$3,000,000 worth of perannum of cottonseed oil cake, not for feeding, but for manuring alone? About ninety per cent of all the sulphuric acid produced in this country is used to making superphosphates, and the domestic output has increased in twelve years from 3,000 long tons to 303,000. In ten years, the output of phosphate rock has doubled, amounting to about 3,800,000 tons in 1912. Altogether, taking all the sorts in a bunch, the United States produced for the use of its farmers in 1912 a total of commercial fertilizer in the year for which figures are at hand—an increase of over \$50,000,000 in five years.

This in addition to what we imported. And we bought from Chile more than \$20,000,000 worth of nitrate of soda, alone.

I'm not digging out these figures, just now, with any purpose of preaching a sermon about commercial fertilizers. Time enough for that on some other occasion. But it surely is significant that the production of artificial manures should be doubling in this country in five years. Doubling in spite of the fact that the price is constantly climbing. It looks as if some farmers somewhere are using the stuff and making it pay. They wouldn't keep on calling for more and more at this rate, if they didn't think they were getting their money back from it. Nor would the manufacturers increase their production if there wasn't call for it.

I don't know, haven't the figures at hand to tell me—but from some scattered items which have come under my observation I do strongly incline to believe that the Aroostook potato-growers, for instance, are using commercial fertilizers rather freely—a good deal more freely than the corn-growers of La Salle county, Illinois, we'll say. And they are getting an average return of \$23 an acre, while the boys out in La Salle think \$17 an acre something to brag about.

One thing is certain: you can empty a soil of its fertility. I.e. its crop-producing quality, in course of time, just as surely as you can empty a quart-measure of water by pouring it out. When the quart measure is full you don't need to put any more water in it; when the soil is new and full of fertility you don't need to spread artificial fertility on it. But when they're both emptied, something has got to be done. You've got to pump fresh water for the one and put on fresh fertility for the other.

Where are you going to get that fresh fertility? That's the whole question. You must get it from somewhere, or your farm will peter out. Shall it be barn-yard manure from your horses? Or shall it be gypsum from Nova Scotia? Or shall it be phosphate rock from Florida and Tennessee? Or shall it be potash from Germany and nitrate of soda from Chile? Or lime from Dunburg? You must have something. You want the thing which will cost you the least, in proportion to the crops it produces. Which and what shall it be? As I've said, over and over again, this is a question which each farmer must make his own soil answer for him alone. And the only earthly way I can see to get that answer is to

keep on constantly testing and experimenting, trying out any scheme, old or new, which shows promise to an open mind, and ruthlessly discarding any scheme, old or new, which doesn't after a fair trial, bring fair results.

THE FARMER.

NEW LONDON'S MUNICIPAL BUILDING

Handsome Structures the Result of Local Architectural and Builders' Skill—Political Activities and Talk.

The new municipal building is finally completed, was formally dedicated last Wednesday and devoted to the purpose for which it was constructed. It is a substantial and magnificent building, a credit to the architect, the builder and the community. It is believed that the building cost will be duplicated for a much less sum of money. A satisfying feature of the building lies in the fact that it was designed by a New London architect, built by a New London contractor and, so far as was possible, the money spent in the construction of the building was handed out to New Londoners. That is as it should be and it demonstrates that no building is too small and none too large to be handled by local contractors and local architects. New London architects have been building the new plant building and their construction is by New London contractors, as was also the plant mansion building and the new city hall. It is to be hoped that all things being equal, local contractors will be considered, yes, even favored, when the city of New London is in charge of the construction of public buildings. One of the members of the firm of architects that is to be in charge of the construction of the new city hall, is a New Londoner, was born here and went through the graded schools and graduated from Bulkley high school. He is now in the city of New London, where he is contributing to the college fund if the contract for the construction of three of the buildings will be opened next Monday, and that New London contractors are among the many bidders. And it would be gratifying to the people of New London who generously contributed to the college fund if the contract for the construction of three of the buildings will be opened next Monday, and that New London contractors are among the many bidders. And it would be gratifying to the people of New London who generously contributed to the college fund if the contract for the construction of three of the buildings will be opened next Monday, and that New London contractors are among the many bidders.

from a democratic standpoint just at this stage of the game are that Bryan F. Mahan will be the democratic candidate for United States senator and George F. Landers the democratic nominee for governor of Connecticut.

While the republican leaders are smiling at the political antics of the democrats, the city of New London is busied in quietly healing the breaks in the party and many of them are convinced that party success would be better conserved if there were some slight changes in the directorate of the party in order to make sure success at the polls in the coming state election. It may be that those who are responsible for the split in the party will take a tumble and retire for the good of the party. That is the fervent wish of the New London friends of Senator Frank B. Brandegee who are desirous of securing his nomination and reelection. He has served his state well and has succeeded in attaining a front rank position that only comes after long experience in the upper branch of congress and is won through merit and efficiency.

If it should come to pass that the two leaders of the political parties in New London, Brandegee and Mahan, should be pitted against each other the result of the vote in the city would be among the most interesting of the election returns. There is more advanced political interest in New London as to whether Brandegee or Mahan will be the next governor, than who will be the next senator. The result of the vote in New London would not cause much heavy betting but it would be a ter to one shot Comstock would not lead the republican candidate governor in New London, and betting would be even with Landers in the running.

Tolland County

STORRS

Getting On With Amory and Gymnasium—President Beach To Spend Vacation in the West.

The concrete foundation for the new staidpise is being put in, under the direction of Prof. C. A. Wheeler. The outside walls of the armory and gymnasium are nearly finished. Two iron girders for the floor are being put in place.

Has Gone West. President C. L. Beach has joined his wife in Kirkwood, Mo. He will spend his vacation in the west.

Miss Ethel Pitts and infant son Kenneth have returned from a visit in Ware, Mass. Mrs. Rogers is entertaining Miss Gordon of Hartford.

Miss Edna Shepard of Pittsburg, Mass., is visiting Mrs. H. D. Edmond.

Dr. and Mrs. Newton have left for their vacation. Dr. Rettger of Yale university with his family are occupying the house for the summer.

Washington County, R. I.

RICHMOND

Two Local Students Graduated from South Kingston High School—Road Commissioner Appointed.

Commencement exercises of the South Kingston High school were held in Hazard Memorial hall Thursday, June 18. The exercises were followed by a musical program. The following participated: March, orchestra; invocation, Rev. Walter N. Reynolds; chorus, Iff Tryg-vason, Grief, school; address of welcome, A. A. Griffin, essay, The Panama Canal, Attmore Edwin Griffin; chorus, in Spain, Glee club; essay, The Life of Mary Magdalene, Antin, Miss Bertha Congdon; chorus, June Song, Bucalessi, school; essay, Oscar W. Underwood, Francis Joseph McGrath; chorus, Darkey Lullaby, Dvo-rak; chorus, essay and vaudeville, The George Junior Republic, Mary Clarke Tucker; violin solo, selected, Luther Emerson Caswell; presentation of diplomas, Hon. Sumner Mowry; chorus, March of the Toreadors, from Carmen, school; benediction, Rev. C. F. Redd; music, orchestra. Among the graduating class of 16 were Henry D. Hoyle and Andrew W. Moore of Richmond.

Baccalaureate Sermon. The baccalaureate sermon to the class of 1914, South Kingston High school, was delivered by Rev. J. W. Forbes at the Peace Dale Congregational church.

Short Paragraphs. Fred W. Smith and Miss Mary E. Brown were Sunday visitors at Charlestown Beach.

William H. Kingsley, who has been ill for a number of weeks, is slowly improving.

Miss Florence Milner has returned, after spending a few days in Providence.

Arnold Moore was a guest recently of Attmore E. Griffin at Salt Pond, Wakefield.

A resident business caller in Beaver River Valley.

Mr. and Mrs. N. G. Hendrick of Wickford Junction were calling on relatives in this vicinity Sunday.

William J. Dawley is the owner of a new automobile.

John J. Cottrell and family, Miss Mary Brown and Fred W. Smith were of an auto party which motored to Woonsocket R. I. recently.

Miss Bertha Congdon closed June 19 for the summer.

The Sunday school connected with the Baptist church at Shannock held a very successful children's day concert Sunday evening, June 14.

Tompkins' Wild West Circus visited Shannock Wednesday.

Luke C. Holley has recently been appointed road commissioner by the town council.

WEEKAPAU

Cottagers Arriving for the Season—Mrs. Butcher in Germany.

Mrs. L. C. Sanford and family of New Haven have arrived at Wyncote cottage for the summer.

Miss Minnie Thelacker has arrived at Birds Nest camp and is getting in readiness for Mrs. George McLeod of Philadelphia, who will occupy the camp this summer in the absence of Mrs. Howard Butcher who has gone to Germany for three months.

Mrs. H. A. McComber has returned home, after a pleasant visit with relatives and friends in Waverly.

Mrs. Robert Scott and children of Philadelphia are guests of Mrs. Scott's mother, Mrs. Charles E. Morris at East Cote cottage.

Miss Jane Tuttle of Hartford arrived Thursday at Bayfield.

James Fletcher has purchased a nice pair of black horses to use in his business.

ROCKVILLE

Miss Ethel Kenyon of Hope Valley, attended church here Saturday and was a guest of her aunt, Mrs. Jared

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MOZARTO.....Clever Musician
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M. HOURIGAN

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G. Barber at Ferncrest. John Lewis and family of Voluntown were callers at E. C. Kenyon's Sunday. Miss Elia and Lucy Palmer have been camping the past week with the Camp Fire girls of Hope Valley at Clark's Point.

Mrs. Jared G. Barber has been the guest of her daughter, Mrs. William E. Hammond at Wickford a few days this week.

Emory C. Kenyon made a trip to Quononotag beach Monday, taking down a load of furniture for parties there.

USQUEPAUGH
Pastor Returns from Boston Convention—Family Clambakes Planned.

Dr. S. C. Webster and son, George, of Westerly, and Dr. George Webster of Chester, Pa., were callers here on Wednesday.

Miss Sallie Levech of Providence, who spent last week at The Maples, returned home Sunday evening.

F. K. Crandall of Westerly was a caller here Wednesday.

Rev. C. H. Palmer returned home Monday, after attending the Northern Baptist convention at Boston last week.

Mrs. Mary McConner and Mrs. Anna Wells attended the circus at Hope Valley Monday.

Mrs. Collins has gone to Maine to visit relatives.

Mrs. Eva Webster has finished her school year at Point Judith, and is caring for her mother, Mrs. Sarah Franklin, who has suffered with rheumatism for several weeks, but is better.

Attended Picnic. Allie Kelly and Master Edward C. Kenyon attended the school picnic at Beaver River.

Mrs. E. L. Simmons visited friends here one day last week.

Mr. Sullivan of Providence is visiting his daughter, Mrs. Mary McConner.

Mrs. Bert Stanton returned to her home at Hope Valley Tuesday, after a week's visit with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. Palmer.

Herbert Lord of Providence spent Sunday here.

John Loftus supplied the pulpit here Sunday.

Hardy Kelly visited his father at Wickford Sunday.

Mrs. Richard Bristol and children spent Monday and Tuesday at W. Young's.

There are to be several family clam-bakes here this year, as usual. Miss Helen S. Lamond has finished her school at Kenyon and is spending her vacation with her parents, J. S.

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